

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. For use in a video display system capable of displaying a
2 video program, a system for creating a multimedia summary of said
3 video program, said system comprising:

4 a multimedia summary generator capable of obtaining a
5 transcript of the text of said video program and capable of
6 obtaining audio-video segments of said video program,

7 wherein said multimedia summary generator is capable of
8 combining portions of said transcript and portions of said audio-
9 video segments to create a multimedia summary of said video
10 program.

1 2. The system as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said multimedia
2 summary generator is capable of creating said multimedia summary by
3 selecting an audio-video segment that relates to a topic of said
4 video program, and by adding said topic and said audio-video
5 segment to said multimedia summary.

1 3. The system as claimed in Claim 2 wherein said multimedia
2 summary generator comprises:

3 a controller capable of executing computer software
4 instructions contained within a memory coupled to said controller
5 to create said multimedia summary of said video program by
6 identifying at least one topic cue in said transcript of said video
7 program, and by selecting at least one audio-visual template
8 associated with said at least one topic cue, and by adding said
9 topic cue and said audio-visual template to said multimedia
10 summary.

1 4. The system as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said controller
2 is capable of executing computer software instructions contained
3 within a memory coupled to said controller to create said
4 multimedia summary of said video program by identifying at least
5 one subtopic cue for said at least one topic of said video
6 program, and by selecting at least one audio-visual template
7 associated with said at least one subtopic cue, and by adding said
8 subtopic cue and said audio-visual template to said multimedia
9 summary.

1 5. The system as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said controller
2 is capable of executing:

3 a domain identification application capable of identifying a
4 type of said video program;

5 a topic cue identification application capable of identifying
6 at least one topic cue in said transcript of said video program;

7 a subtopic cue identification application capable of
8 identifying at least one subtopic cue in said at least one topic
9 of said video program; and

10 an audio-visual template identification application capable of
11 identifying at least one audio-visual template associated with said
12 at least one topic cue, and capable of identifying at least one
13 audio-visual template associated with said at least one subtopic
14 cue.

1 6. The system as claimed in Claim 4 wherein said controller
2 is capable of executing computer software instructions contained
3 within a memory coupled to said controller to create an entry point
4 for each topic that will allow a viewer to access each topic in
5 said multimedia summary, and to create an entry point for each
6 subtopic that will allow a viewer to access each subtopic in said
7 multimedia summary.

1 7. A video display system capable of creating a multimedia
2 summary of a video program, said video display system comprising:
3 a multimedia summary generator capable of obtaining a
4 transcript of the text of said video program and capable of
5 obtaining audio-video segments of said video program,
6 wherein said multimedia summary generator is capable of
7 combining portions of said transcript and portions of said audio-
8 video segments to create a multimedia summary of said video
9 program.

1 8. The video display system as claimed in Claim 7 wherein
2 said multimedia summary generator is capable of creating said
3 multimedia summary by selecting an audio-video segment that relates
4 to a topic of said video program, and by adding said topic and said
5 audio-video segment to said multimedia summary.

1 9. The video display system as claimed in Claim 8 wherein
2 said multimedia summary generator comprises:

3 a controller capable of executing computer software
4 instructions contained within a memory coupled to said controller
5 to create said multimedia summary of said video program by
6 identifying at least one topic cue in said transcript of said video
7 program, and by selecting at least one audio- visual template
8 associated with said at least one topic cue, and by adding said
9 topic cue and said audio-visual template to said multimedia
10 summary.

1 10. The video display system as claimed in Claim 9 wherein
2 said controller is capable of executing computer software
3 instructions contained within a memory coupled to said controller
4 to create said multimedia summary of said video program by
5 identifying at least one subtopic cue for said at least one topic
6 of said video program, and by selecting at least one audio-visual
7 template associated with said at least one subtopic cue, and by
8 adding said subtopic cue and said audio-visual template to said
9 multimedia summary.

1 11. The video display system as claimed in Claim 9 wherein
2 said controller is capable of executing:

3 a domain identification application capable of identifying a
4 type of said video program;

5 a topic cue identification application capable of identifying
6 at least one topic cue in said transcript of said video program;

7 a subtopic cue identification application capable of
8 identifying at least one subtopic cue in said at least one topic
9 of said video program; and

10 an audio-visual template identification application capable of
11 identifying at least one audio-visual template associated with said
12 at least one topic cue, and capable of identifying at least one
13 audio-visual template associated with said at least one subtopic
14 cue.

1 12. The video display system as claimed in Claim 10 wherein
2 said controller is capable of executing computer software
3 instructions contained within a memory coupled to said controller
4 to create an entry point for each topic that will allow a viewer to
5 access each topic in said multimedia summary, and to create an
6 entry point for each subtopic that will allow a viewer to access
7 each subtopic in said multimedia summary.

1 13. For use in a video display system capable of displaying a
2 video program, a method for creating a multimedia summary of said
3 video program, said method comprising the steps of:

4 obtaining a transcript of the text of said video program in a
5 multimedia summary generator;

6 obtaining audio-video segments of said video program in said
7 multimedia summary generator; and

8 combining portions of said transcript and portions of said
9 audio-video segments in said multimedia summary generator to create
10 said multimedia summary of said video program.

1 14. The method as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the step of
2 combining portions of said transcript and portions of said audio-
3 video segments in said multimedia summary generator to create said
4 multimedia summary of said video program comprises:

5 selecting an audio-video segment that relates to a topic of
6 said video program; and

7 adding said topic and said audio-video segment to said
8 multimedia summary.

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1 15. The method as claimed in Claim 14 further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 receiving in a multimedia summary generator instructions from
4 computer software stored in a memory coupled to said multimedia
5 summary generator;

6 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
7 generator to identify at least one topic cue in said transcript of
8 said video program;

9 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
10 generator to select at least one audio-visual template associated
11 with said at least one topic cue; and

12 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
13 generator to add said topic cue and said audio-visual template to
14 said multimedia summary.

1 16. The method as claimed in Claim 15 further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 receiving in a multimedia summary generator instructions from
4 computer software stored in a memory coupled to said multimedia
5 summary generator;

6 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
7 generator to identify at least one subtopic cue for said at least
8 one topic of said video program;

9 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
10 generator to select at least one audio-visual template associated
11 with said at least one subtopic cue; and

12 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
13 generator to add said subtopic cue and said audio-visual template
14 to said multimedia summary.

1 17. The method as claimed in Claim 15 further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 identifying a type of said video program with a domain
4 identification application;

5 identifying at least one topic cue in said transcript of said
6 video program with a topic cue identification application;

7 identifying at least one subtopic cue in said at least one
8 topic of said video program with a subtopic cue identification
9 application;

10 identifying at least one audio-visual template associated with
11 said at least one topic cue with an audio-visual template
12 identification application; and

13 identifying at least one audio-visual template associated with
14 said at least one subtopic cue with said audio-visual template
15 identification application.

1 18. The method as claimed in Claim 16 further comprising the
2 steps of:

3 receiving in a multimedia summary generator instructions from
4 computer software stored in a memory coupled to said multimedia
5 summary generator;

6 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
7 generator to create an entry point for each topic that will allow a
8 viewer to access each topic in said multimedia summary; and

9 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
10 generator to create an entry point for each subtopic that will
11 allow a viewer to access each subtopic in said multimedia summary.

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1 19. For use in a video display system capable of displaying a
2 video program, computer-executable instructions stored on a
3 computer-readable storage medium for creating a multimedia summary
4 of said video program, the computer-executable instructions
5 comprising the steps of:

6 obtaining a transcript of the text of said video program in a
7 multimedia summary generator;

8 obtaining audio-video segments of said video program in said
9 multimedia summary generator; and

10 combining portions of said transcript and portions of said
11 audio-video segments in said multimedia summary generator to create
12 said multimedia summary of said video program.

1 20. The computer-executable instructions stored on a
2 computer-readable storage medium as claimed in Claim 19 wherein the
3 step of combining portions of said transcript and portions of said
4 audio-video segments in said multimedia summary generator to create
5 said multimedia summary of said video program comprises:

6 selecting an audio-video segment that relates to a topic of
7 said video program; and

8 adding said topic and said audio-video segment to said
9 multimedia summary.

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1 21. The computer-executable instructions stored on a
2 computer-readable storage medium as claimed in Claim 20 further
3 comprising the steps of:

4 receiving in a multimedia summary generator instructions from
5 computer software stored in a memory coupled to said multimedia
6 summary generator;

7 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
8 generator to identify at least one topic cue in said transcript of
9 said video program;

10 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
11 generator to select at least one audio-visual template associated
12 with said at least one topic cue; and

13 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
14 generator to add said topic cue and said audio-visual template to
15 said multimedia summary.

1 22. The computer-executable instructions stored on a
2 computer-readable storage medium as claimed in Claim 21 further
3 comprising the steps of:

4 receiving in a multimedia summary generator instructions from
5 computer software stored in a memory coupled to said multimedia
6 summary generator;

7 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
8 generator to identify at least one subtopic cue for said at least
9 one topic of said video program;

10 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
11 generator to select at least one audio-visual template associated
12 with said at least one subtopic cue; and

13 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
14 generator to add said subtopic cue and said audio-visual template
15 to said multimedia summary.

1 23. The computer-executable instructions stored on a
2 computer-readable storage medium as claimed in Claim 21 further
3 comprising the steps of:

4 identifying a type of said video program with a domain
5 identification application;

6 identifying at least one topic cue in said transcript of said
7 video program with a topic cue identification application;

8 identifying at least one subtopic cue in said at least one
9 topic of said video program with a subtopic cue identification
10 application;

11 identifying at least one audio-visual template associated with
12 said at least one topic cue with an audio-visual template
13 identification application; and

14 identifying at least one audio-visual template associated with
15 said at least one subtopic cue with said audio-visual template
16 identification application.

1 24. The computer-executable instructions stored on a
2 computer-readable storage medium as claimed in Claim 22 further
3 comprising the steps of:

4 receiving in a multimedia summary generator instructions from
5 computer software stored in a memory coupled to said multimedia
6 summary generator;

7 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
8 generator to create an entry point for each topic that will allow a
9 viewer to access each topic in said multimedia summary; and

10 executing said instructions in said multimedia summary
11 generator to create an entry point for each subtopic that will
12 allow a viewer to access each subtopic in said multimedia summary.

1 25. For use in a video display system capable of displaying a
2 video program, a multimedia summary of a video program comprising
3 at least one audio-visual segment of said video program.

1 26. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 25 further comprising at least one portion of a transcript of
3 said video program.

1 27. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 25 comprising at least one audio-visual segment of said video
3 program that relates to at least one topic of said video program.

1 28. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 27 comprising at least one audio-visual segment of said video
3 program that relates to at least one subtopic in said at least one
4 topic of said video program.

1 29. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 25 wherein said multimedia summary is capable of displaying
3 one of:

4 text from said video program, audio from said video program, a
5 single video frame from said video program, a video segment
6 comprising a series of video frames from said video program, and
7 an audio-visual segment comprising audio from said video program
8 and a series of video frames from said video program.

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1 30. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 27 comprising a plurality of audio-visual segments of said
3 video program, wherein each of said plurality of audio-visual
4 segments relates to a topic of said video program.

1 31. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 30 further comprising a topic entry point associated with
3 each of said plurality of audio-visual segments that relates to a
4 topic, in which each topic entry point allows a viewer to access
5 the audio-visual segment associated with said topic.

1 32. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 30 comprising a plurality of audio-visual segments of said
3 video program, wherein each of said plurality of audio-visual
4 segments relates to a subtopic of a topic of said video program.

1 33. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 32 further comprising a subtopic entry point associated with
3 each of said plurality of audio-visual segments that relates to a
4 subtopic, in which each subtopic entry point allows a viewer to
5 access the audio-visual segment associated with said subtopic.

1 34. For use in a video display system capable of displaying a
2 video program, a multimedia summary of a video program comprising
3 a plurality of audio-visual segments of said video program
4 that relate to at least one topic of said video program; and
5 at least one topic entry point associated with said plurality
6 of audio-visual segments that relate to said at least one topic of
7 said video program, in which said at least one topic entry point
8 allows a viewer to access the plurality of audio-visual segments
9 associated with said topic.

1 35. The multimedia summary of a video program as claimed in
2 Claim 34 further comprising
3 a plurality of audio-visual segments of said video program
4 that relate to at least one subtopic of said at least one topic of
5 said video program; and
6 at least one subtopic entry point associated with said
7 plurality of audio-visual segments that relate to said at least one
8 subtopic of said at least one topic of said video program, in which
9 said at least one subtopic entry point allows a viewer to access
10 the plurality of audio-visual segments associated with said
11 subtopic.

1 36. The method as claimed in Claim 13, said method further
2 comprising the steps of:

3 obtaining an image of a face of a person in said video program
4 with audio-visual template identification application after said
5 person first appears in said video program;

6 subsequently confirming the identity of said person by
7 checking at least one identifying characteristic of said person;
8 and

9 adding said image of said person to said multimedia summary
10 after the identity of said person has been confirmed.

1 37. The method as claimed in Claim 36 wherein said at least
2 one identifying characteristic of said person comprises one of:

3 an identification of the face of said person, an
4 identification of the voice of said person, and a name plate of
5 said person.

1 38. The method as claimed in Claim 36 wherein at least one
2 identifying characteristic of said person comprises an
3 identification of the face of said person and an identification of
4 the voice of said person.